

Listing Of The Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (presently amended) A spindle nut retainer for preventing disengagement of a nut threadedly engaged to a spindle, comprising:

an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration while in place over the nut;

wherein said base section defines a central aperture; and

wherein said peripheral section has an interior surface, ~~and~~ includes a plurality of fingers which define one or more longitudinal windows therebetween, said fingers including nut engaging surfaces on the interior surface of the peripheral section, and includes an integrally formed ring at an end of and interconnecting said fingers opposite said base section.

2. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said nut engaging surfaces each comprise two angled surfaces.

3. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said central aperture is D-shaped.

4. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said base section is flat.

5. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said base section is reinforced around said central aperture.

6. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 made from polymer.

7. cancelled.

8. (previously presented) A spindle nut retainer for preventing disengagement of a nut threadedly engaged to a spindle, comprising:

an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration while in place over the nut;

wherein said base section defines a central aperture; and

wherein said peripheral section comprises a plurality of fingers which create one or more longitudinal windows therebetween, said fingers including a flared end bent towards the center of said spindle nut retainer.

9. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 wherein said central aperture is D-shaped.

10. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 wherein said base section includes a tab bent in line with said fingers.

11. cancelled

12. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 made from steel.

13. (presently amended) A spindle nut locking system comprising:

a spindle having a first end;

a nut threadedly engaged to said spindle, said nut having flats;

a spindle nut retainer, circumscribing said nut and said spindle, comprising an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration wherein said base section defines a central aperture, and wherein said peripheral section includes a plurality of fingers which create one or more longitudinal

windows therebetween, said fingers including a flared end bent towards the center of said spindle nut retainer.

14. (original) The spindle nut locking system of claim 13 wherein said spindle has a D-shaped cross-section adjacent to said first end.

15. (original) The spindle nut locking system of claim 14 wherein said central aperture is D-shaped and said spindle nut retainer circumscribes the D-shaped cross section of said spindle resulting in rotational interference between said spindle nut retainer and said spindle.

16. (original) The spindle nut locking system of claim 13 wherein said peripheral member has an interior surface which defines a plurality of nut engaging surfaces.

17. cancelled

18. (previously presented) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 wherein at least one of said fingers includes first and second lobes at an end of said peripheral section opposite said base section.

19. (previously presented) The spindle nut locking system of claim 13 wherein said spindle includes a threaded section and a non-threaded section and said nut includes a first face adjacent said non-threaded spindle section and a second face on an opposite side of said nut and wherein said spindle nut retainer base section is adjacent said opposite side of said nut.

20. (presently amended) A spindle nut retainer for placing over a nut threadedly engaged to a spindle having a threaded section with a truncated circular cross-section, said spindle nut retainer preventing disengagement of the nut and comprising:

an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration while in place over the nut;

wherein said base section defines a central aperture having a truncated circular shape for receiving the complementary shaped truncated circular cross-sectioned spindle to prevent rotation of the spindle nut retainer about the spindle;

wherein said peripheral section defines one or more longitudinal windows extending from said base section to an open end of the peripheral section opposite said base section and into which one or more corners of the nut protrude, preventing rotation of the nut; and

wherein said peripheral section includes inwardly extending portions for snapping over the nut to lock said spindle nut retainer in place.

21. (previously presented) The spindle nut retainer of claim 20 wherein said windows extend from said base section to an open end of the peripheral section opposite said base section.

22. cancelled

23. (presently amended) The spindle nut retainer of claim ~~22~~ 20 wherein said peripheral section further defines nut engaging surfaces on an interior surface.

24. (previously presented) The spindle net retainer of claim 21 wherein said inwardly extending portions are flared ends of fingers upon the peripheral section.